

TO: THE DIRECTOR, CIA

FROM: Assistant Director for Special Operations

SUBJECT: CIA/JCMB Liaison

- REFERENCE: (a) Ltr dated 24 July 1959 to Inter-Departmental Radio Advisory Committee  
(b) Ltr dated 1 August 1959 from Executive Secretary, Joint Communications-Electronics Committee

1. In compliance with Reference (a), a conference concerning liaison on communications matters between CIA and the Joint Communications-Electronics Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was held in the office of Major General H. M. McClelland on Thursday, 17 August. Present at this conference were:

For CIA

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Chief, Communications Division, OSD  
Acting Deputy, Comm Engineering Branch  
Chief, Contract Branch, FSD/SSS

For JCMB

Major General H. M. McClelland,	Chairman, JCMB
Captain T. A. Smith, USN	Exec. Sec, JCMB
Colonel C. M. Doer	J/OCE
Captain E. A. Taylor, USN	J/SP
Colonel J. B. Eastie	J/CE

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2. [redacted] outlined the problems facing CIA in the support of intelligence activities and particularly the dependence placed by this Agency on communications channels of the several military services as well as the need for close coordination of development and procurement activities to avoid duplication of effort.

3. He further pointed out that, while standard military equipment was used wherever possible and therefore constituted a logistics requirement which must be considered by the military in making their overall plans for the support of operations, there were also numerous specialized electronics equipments developed to meet the peculiar needs of this Agency which at the same time must be able to be integrated into military systems of communications.

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4. 25X1A [redacted] pointed out that the assistance of the JCEC is necessary in insuring that suitable priorities were assigned in the procurement of military types of equipment.

5. After considerable discussion of the various aspects of the problems presented, it was decided that the needs of the Central Intelligence Agency would best be met by establishment of liaison between CIA and the Executive Secretary, JCEC. It appeared that this will provide a channel by means of which information on the needs of CIA or of pending actions by the JCEC which were of interest to that Agency, could be maintained without CIA officials having to spend a great deal of time attending panel meetings at which the majority of the items discussed would be of little interest. It appeared that with the establishment of such a point of contact, CIA communications requirements could be given full consideration by the appropriate panels as required.

6. A letter to the Director of CIA, proposing this procedure will be prepared by the Executive Secretary, JCEC, and if approved, it appears that it will meet the requirements set forth in Reference (b). It was suggested that direct communications engineering liaison with the Research & Development Board, particularly with a view to being on the distribution list of its publications, would be very helpful to the Agency as well as membership in the Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee. It was further suggested that similar liaison with the Munitions Board for handling procurement problems would be advantageous where materials are under cognizance of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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[redacted]